

CHIEF OKEMOS

OKEMOS



Freeman Bray founded the village of Hamilton in 1840, and he recorded the plat in 1851. In 1859 the state legislature renamed the village Okemos in honor of the Indian leader who led a band of Indians, most likely Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi people, who lived along the Red Cedar River. By 1874 hotels and stores dotted the Detroit-Grand River plank road (present-day Hamilton Road), and sawmills, gristmills, and planing mills operated at the site of present-day Ferguson and Wonch Parks off of State Road (now Okemos Road). In 1923 Grand River Road became a state trunk line and was rerouted north of its original location.

Location:	Southeast corner of Hamilton and Okemos Roads
Applicant/Sponsor:	Okemos Kiwanis Club / Meridian Charter Township
Marker Erected:	2004
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